
RICHFORD QUARTERLY

Volume 9, Issue 3

July - September 2009

SUPERVISOR'S NOTES

Assessments were updated again this year so that Richford will maintain full value assessments and continue to receive state aid. This year Richford received \$4,312 in maintenance aid. Interest rates are so low that the Town is earning very little interest on town funds. The Town buildings (Town Hall, Fire House, and Town Garage) are all in need of replacement. A volunteer group is investigating ways to replace the Town buildings, including where to locate the buildings, the design of the buildings, and how to finance construction. One possible location is where the highway garage is now located. Government grants may be available to cover some of the cost of construction.

TOWN ELECTIONS

Local elections will be held Tuesday, November 3, for five positions: supervisor, town clerk, two town board members, and highway superintendent. Town board members serve for four years; the other offices are for two years.

The date for filing petitions for party-nominated candidates has passed. Independent party candidates, however, have from August 11 - 18 to file nominating petitions. Information about procedures for filing an independent petition can be obtained from the Board of Elections, 56 Main St., Owego, NY. Phone: 687-8261.

Information about voting requirements and registration, deadline dates for registering absentee ballots and other related items can be obtained from the Board of Elections. And remember, if you are not registered, you cannot vote!

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Veronica Gordinier, daughter of Karen and Brian Gordinier, and Travis Gordinier, son of Janet and Kenneth Gordinier, were selected as the 2009 recipients of the Richford Scholarship.

Besides being a resident of Richford, the qualifying students must have a course average of 80 or better and must plan on attending college in the following fall. Veronica plans to attend Elmira College to study math and Travis has been accepted at Broome Community College as an engineering student. Both have also been involved locally in community service: Veronica with helping the Auxiliary with its projects and Travis with the Fire Department.

Each will receive \$150.00 from the fund, after enrolling at their respective schools. Our congratulations to Veronica and Travis and to all the 2009 Richford graduates.

POTATO FESTIVAL

Richford's 17th Potato Festival will be held Saturday, Sept. 19, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Richford Congregational Church will have food for sale including salt potatoes, potato soup, and potato salad. The Community Auxiliary will be selling potato doughnuts and other foods at the Town (Community) Hall.

The Berkshire Congregational Church Choir will sing. Vendors will have their displays at the Graded School and at the Health Center/Town Hall area. For more information contact Flora Karasin (657-2526) or Bill Sherwood (539-6283).

BERKSHIRE EMERGENCY SQUAD

Nathan Toussaint is Director of Operations for the Berkshire Emergency Squad, which serves Richford, Berkshire, and Newark Valley. Any concerns, including billing for ambulance service, should be directed to Nathan at 607-642-3451. Billing for ambulance calls is handled by a third party billing agency.

John Schaffer was recently elected president of the Berkshire Emergency Squad Board of Directors. The Board meets monthly and the meetings are open to the public. Persons who have concerns to bring to the attention of the Board should call ahead of time to have the item placed on the agenda.

As with most groups the Squad is in need of volunteers, not only EMTs and paramedics but also those who could serve as drivers and helpers for special events such as the upcoming membership drive in August.

For more information about volunteer jobs, please contact Renee Keller, who is Chief of the Emergency Squad including volunteers. Renee can also be reached at 642-3451. The address for the Squad Offices is 9 Park Street, 2nd Floor, Suite C, Newark Valley, NY 13811.

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TOWN BOARD NEWS

June 9, 2009 – Steve Lawton, Highway Superintendent, reports that the new grader has been delivered, but there was discussion over the tires. Work is continuing at Rawley Park. The Code Enforcement report for May was read. The Justice Court report showed \$6520.00 collected. The Planning Board is working on updating the Comprehensive Plan. The Town Board passed a resolution to amend the Town Comprehensive Plan. Members of the Berkshire Emergency Squad were present. It was explained that we do not have 24/7 coverage. A paid EMT is available from 8am to 4:30pm week days. Other hours are covered by volunteers. There was a lot of discussion over response time and services. The Town Board authorized Steve Lawton to order a 2010 pickup truck by State Contract. There was discussion on funding of the Summer Youth Program. The Board thanks Barbara Keener for weeding the flower bed by the Town Hall. Members of the Board of Assessment Review are asking for a raise when the 2010 budget is prepared. There was discussion on painting needs at the Graded School.

July 14, 2009 – Steve Lawton, Highway Superintendent, reports that drainage pipes have been put in on some roads. His crew is working on brush clearing and on the gravel roads. The Highway Department finally got the correct tires for the grader from the seller. The Justice Court report shows \$7695.00 collected. The Code Enforcement report for June was read. The Dog Control report was read. The Planning Board is working on the Town Newsletter. The Town Board will be getting a plaque for Ernie McFadden who retired from working the garbage truck. The Town Board will be looking into the possibility of getting grants for the replacing of Town Buildings. The Board accepted a Memorandum of Understanding from the State Office of Real Property Services to keep properties at full assessment. State aid collected for this year amounted to \$4312.00. Judy Thurston wants to remind everyone that the Town has a property identification law, which requires numbers on mailboxes or houses to help emergency response crews to find your property.

ARE YOU IN COMPLIANCE With THE LAW?

Local Law #1 of 1992 and known as the Property Identification Law of the Town of Richford requires street numbers prominently displayed on all principal structures located within the Town. The numbers shall be a minimum of 5 inches in height when displayed on a structure or post. Numbers on mailboxes shall be a minimum of 4 inches in height. Numbers must be visible from the road. Those who violate this law may be fined up to \$100 and each day of violation will be a separate offense. The purpose of this law is to help emergency response crews find your property. Copies of this law are available from the Town Clerk.

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SUMMER LIBRARY PROGRAM

The Library is hosting “Thursdays @ the Library”, a free event every Thursday from 10 a.m. to noon for youth ages 4 - 11 years. Each event is different, with games, arts and crafts, music, read aloud and more:

July 23 Reading! It's a Fine Art!
July 30 Image & Create!
Aug 6 I've Got Rhythm!
Aug 13 Get in the Act . . . Read!

Also, the Library is hosting “Independent Reading: Read, write, earn prizes!”, and “Reading Buddies”. Contact the library (657-4418) for more information. The Library is located in Berkshire on Rt 38 at Jewett Hill Road (next to the fire station). Library hours are: Tues: 12-5; Wed: 1:30-7; Thurs: 1- 5; Fri: 3- 8:30; Sat: 9 - 2.:

FROM THE DOG CONTROL OFFICER

This year a new standard for care of dogs kept outside was passed by the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets. The shelter should be large enough for the dog to stand, turn around and lie down comfortably. The chain or rope should be at least three times the length of the dog's body. The animal must be fed and watered every 12 hours and have access to water.. If someone reports that your dog has been left outside without proper protection from the elements, and no water is available, the Officer is required by law to investigate.

If a dog doesn't have a license and is "roaming" at large on public property, the Officer is required to take the dog to Stray Haven Humane Shelter, Waverly. What happens if the officer takes your dog to Stray Haven? The handling charge is \$20.00, which goes to the Town, and \$65 to the Humane Society for food, housing. After 5 days at the Shelter, the dog is put up for adoption. If you pick up your dog within the 5 day period, there may be additional charges if the rabies shot and license fees are not current.

This is just as brief summary; if you need more information please call the Dog Control Officer, Rob Raab, at 426-4567.

TIOGA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM

The Tioga County Historical Society Museum is currently hosting two exhibits; one of log cabin quilts and one of wood carvings by Roger Westgate. A new exhibit opens Aug 1 titled “Dearly Departed: Women and Mourning 1860-1919”. The museum is located at 110 Front St. in Owego and is open Tuesday-Saturday 10AM-4PM.

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The cost is \$10.00 for each adult, with reduced fees for seniors, children, and groups. Some tours stop for lunch (on your own). Tours scheduled for coming months include visits to Tioga Downs, Heaven Llama Farm, underground railroad (parts 1 and 2), living close to nature and the Taylor Horse Farm.

A brochure describing all the tours can be obtained from the Tioga County Tourism Office, 800-671-7772 or on-line at www.visittioga.com. Reservations recommended; space is limited.

SUMMER YOUTH & LUNCH PROGRAM

Both programs started Monday July 6. There is still time to participate in one or both programs. The Richford Youth Program is from 1 to 3 p.m. on Monday and Wednesday. Director Becky Randall, assisted by Heather Armstrong, has planned an active and interesting program including speakers from Cooperative Extension (4-H, Master Gardener, and food and nutrition), fire safety, crafts and exercise. Snacks are also a part of the program as well as books which can be signed out and returned. There will also be one Family Fun Night.

The lunch program is available 5 days a week (Monday thru Friday), starting at 12 noon. This free program is for youth from 18 months to 18 years of age.

The last day of the Youth Program is August 12; for the lunch program it is August 14. For more information about the program, please call Becky Randall at 657-8254.

N'n TIOGA NEIGHBORS NETWORK

Need help getting to your doctor's appointment? Can't get to the grocery store, pharmacy or need help changing that light bulb? The trained volunteers from NTNN can be of help. Other services such as friendly phone calls or home visits can be arranged as well as letter writing, mail pickups or changing the battery in your smoke detector.

Call 657-2823 or 877- 657-2823 to request the services of a volunteer, or go on-line at www.ntnnonline.org. Phone calls will be returned in one business day.

FOOD STAMP PROGRAM

Dolores King, Coordinator for the Nutrition Outreach and Education Program, will be at the Hubbard Center each month to help families and individuals determine their eligibility to receive food stamps. To make an appointment call toll free 1-866-326-1373. At that time you will be informed about the financial and other information that you need to bring with you. The Food Stamp Program can help eligible adults and children to have a more nutritious diet.

The Nutrition Outreach and Education Program is housed with Catholic Charities in Waverly and serves residents of Tioga County.

COUNTY BUS AND WALKING TOURS

The Tioga County Tourism Office schedules tours of various sites of interest throughout the county on Saturdays from June throughout October. Most tours begin at 10 a.m. each Saturday and usually leave from the front of the Tioga County Historical Museum, 110 Front Street, Owego.

COMMUNITY AUXILIARY EVENTS

The Auxiliary will sponsor another Jam Day at Rawley Park on Sunday, August 23 from 12 noon on. The entrance fee will be \$2.00 per person. Musicians who want to "pick and grin" are invited to bring their instruments and join in the music making. Food will be available. The Auxiliary invites all area residents to join in the festivities.

Auxiliary members will make potato doughnuts and other foods for sale at the Town Hall during the Richford Potato Festival.

The Auxiliary members also express their appreciation to all who donated food and other items for the chicken barbecue held in May to support the Richford Scholarship Fund. The event was very successful in raising the needed funds for the scholarship.

RICHFORD ON THE WEB

Richford is 'on the web' at a number of sites (see below) and will soon have its own website at www.richfordny. Details coming soon.

<http://www.tiogacountyny.com/> is a great site with links to many additional sites pertaining to local government and services.

<http://www.tiogacountysheriff.com/> spotlights many of the services of the Sheriff's Department.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richford,_New_York has many facts about our local History, Geography and Demographics. Check it out and see if you agree with their findings.

<http://www.berkshireny.com/> is Berkshire's up-dated web site.

<http://richfordcongregation.org/> is Richford's Congregational Church site.

<http://www.ntnnonline.org/> is a great site on how to give and receive help from your own neighbors.

<http://www.tiogareap.org/> Shows many of the projects that REAP (Rural Economic Area Partnership) has done in Richford and the County, and some up-coming events.

CLOTHES CLOSET

The Clothes Closet, located in the Hubbard Center, Bowery Lane, provides free women's and children's clothing in good repair. Hours are 6 to 8 p.m. on the first and third Thursdays of each month. Further information can be obtained by calling 657-8254 or the Health Center at 657-8521.

TIOGA TRAVELS

Come and enjoy free ice cream sundaes at the farm, thanks to a program sponsored by the Tioga County Agricultural Resource Group and Senator Libous' Buy from the Backyard initiative. The next Sundaes at the Farm is Sunday, July 26, from 1-4 pm at the TLC Blueberry Farm operated by Tom and Linda Gartung.

TLC Blueberry Farm is located at 2053 Route 17C, Barton (1 mile west of Smithboro). The ice cream is provided by Byrne Dairy and whipped cream is provided by the Organic Valley Cooperative. You can take a self-guided tour of the farm and pick blueberries (For blueberries closer to home, visit the U-pick blueberry farm of Vern and Sandy Negus, Payne Marsh Road, 657-8272).

The last Sundaes at the farm will be held Sunday, August 9 at Kuhlman's Dairy, 5932 Waits Road (corner of Waits Road and Valley Road), Southside Owego. There you can see cows being milked and calves fed. Big tractors and field equipment will be on display. 4-H and farm demonstrations will be held throughout the afternoon. The Kuhlman's farm several hundred acres and milk 95 cows.

Both open houses are open 1 to 4 p.m. and provide county residents the opportunity to visit farming operations. For more information or a Sundaes at the Farm brochure, call 607-687-7440, or email info@visittioga.com.

TIOGA MOBILE DENTAL SERVICES

The Dental Van offers cleanings, fluoride treatments, sealants, fillings and extractions. While there is a waiting list, appointments are accepted for children, senior citizens, pregnant women and people with toothaches. Call 768-4622 for an appointment. There is a sliding fee scale, and all insurances are accepted including Medicaid. During the summer the Van is located at the Office of the Aging, Sheldon Guile Blvd, Owego. The Van will move to the Newark Valley School District in March - April 2010.

Calendar of Events

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| July 26 | Sundaes at the Farm, TLC Blueberry Farm, 205 Route 17C, Barton |
| July 27 | Fire Dept. Building Committee Mtg, 6:30 pm Fire Station |
| July 28 | Diabetic Support Group, Berkshire Congregation Church, Berkshire, 6 p.m., 657-4479 for info . |
| Aug 6 | Food giveaway, Richford Congregational Church, 12:30 p.m., bring containers |
| Aug 9 | Sundaes at the Farm, MK Dairy, 5932 Waits Road, Owego |
| Aug 12 | Last day, Summer Youth Program |
| Aug 14 | Last day, Summer Lunch Program |
| Aug 19 | Northern Tioga Neighbors Network Advisory Board meeting, 7 p.m., Hubbard Center |
| Aug 23 | Jam Day, Rawley Park, 12 noon on, sponsored by Community Auxiliary, \$2.00 entrance fee |
| Aug 24 | Fire Dept Building Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m. |
| Aug 25 | Diabetic Support Group; see July 28 |
| August | Dates to be announced for and Pie and Ice Cream Social Berkshire Library fund raiser and Rummage Sale, Congregational Church, Richford, |
| Sept. 3 | Food giveaway, see August 6 |
| Sept. 19 | Potato Festival, Richford, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. |
| Sept. 28 | Fire Department Building Committee Meeting, 6:30 pm |
| Sept. 29 | Diabetic Support Group; see July 28 |
| Oct. 1 | Food giveaway, see August 6 |
| Oct 3 | Richford Congregational Church, pork roast dinner, 4 - 7 p.m. |

Town Newsletter
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